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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 15, 1951 SS-99

Livestock Numbers Continue to Rise

A net increase in the number of livestock and poultry took place in 1950 for the second successive year. The over-all Jan. 1 total tops that of a year ago by 4 percent. The increase in 1949 was 2 percent. Cattle and hog numbers are up substantially. And the 4 percent increase in stock sheep is the first gain in sheep numbers in 9 years.

Percentage Increases by Groups

Meat animals--all cattle, hogs, and sheep--increased 5 percent. Milk animals, including cows, heifers and heifer calves, increased 1 percent. Work stock declined 9 percent. And chicken numbers (excluding commercial broilers) are down 3 percent.

4 Million More Cattle

Cattle on farms Jan. 1 numbered 84.2 million head compared with 80 million year earlier and 78.8 million head '40-49 average. Rise was mostly in numbers kept for beef. Cows kept mainly for beef reached a new high. 5 percent more cattle and calves were on feed Jan. 1 this year than last, with a large proportion of calves.

4½ Million More Hogs

Hog numbers were up 7 percent from year ago, or an increase of 4.5 million hogs. Total on farms Jan. 1, 65 million; year earlier 60.5 million; average 62.3 million.

Sheep Numbers Up Nearly a Million

All sheep on farms Jan. 1 totaled 31.5 million compared with 30.7 million year earlier. 31.7 million in '49, and 46.1 million 10-year average. Stock sheep now total 28 million head, up from 27 million year ago. Average, '40-49 was 40 million head of stock sheep.

Half Million Fewer Horses; Smaller Drop in Mules

Horses and colts number 4.8 million head. Compared with 5.3 million year ago and 8.6 million 10-year average. The nearly 2 million mules on farms compare with 2.1 million year ago and 3.3 million head 10-year average.

6 Percent More Texas Goats

Texas goats, mostly Angoras, are estimated at 2.4 million head compared with 2.3 million year earlier. Peak reached in 1942 was 3.5 million head.

Turkey Numbers Below Average

Turkeys on farms Jan. 1 numbered nearly 6 million, about the same as a year earlier but down from average by 14 percent.

Values Per Head With Comparisons

Cattle per head, farm value Jan. 1, \$160. Value year ago, \$123; 10-year average, \$76.80. Milk cows, 2 years and over, \$218 per head; year ago, \$177; 10-year average, \$111. Hogs, \$33.20; year ago \$27.10; 10-year average, \$23.30. Stock sheep, \$26.40 per head; year ago \$17.80; 10-year average, \$10.20. Horses are valued at \$43.40; year ago, \$45.80; 10-year average \$65.60. Mules, \$82; year ago, \$99.40; 10-year average, \$126. Turkeys per head, \$6.39; year ago, \$6.25; 10-year average, \$5.08. Chickens, per head, \$1.45; year ago, \$1.36; 10-year average \$1.13.

Farmers Plan Heavy Crop Production

Relatively large acreages are expected to be planted this year with only peanuts and most types of tobacco under acreage allotments. Machinery appears adequate. Fertilizer may not be quite as plentiful as desired. And some farmers may be handicapped by lack of labor. Movement from farms to industry and to the armed forces is already being felt.

Wheat Condition Unsettled; Moisture Needed in Plains

Wheat crop February 1 was in fairly satisfactory condition, except in the central and southern Great Plains. In much of this area condition of winter wheat is causing concern for lack of rain. February will be a critical month and a drought-breaking rain could bring recovery in the Great Plains. Some winter kill is expected also in eastern Washington.

Better Than Average Orange Crop

Orange production, '50-51 crop, is estimated at 106.1 million boxes. The 51.3 million boxes of early and mid-season will be about the same as last season and 15 percent above average; Valencias, 54.8 million boxes, will be 5 percent more than last season and 7 percent above average. 70 million boxes of oranges were still available for use Feb. 1--up from year earlier by 1.5 million boxes.

Grapefruit Below Average Crop

Grapefruit crop will total about 45.3 million boxes, down 2.2 million from the January estimate because of Texas freeze. Production last season 36.5 million; 10-yr. average 50.7 million. Remaining for harvest Feb. 1, 24.5 million boxes. Compares with 20.5 million year earlier.

Citrus Damage Limited to Texas

Cold wave severely damaged citrus in Texas, little or no loss elsewhere. Slow 2-day rain helped in Flor-

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Dec. 15 1950	Jan. 15 1951	Jan. 15 1951
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.03	2.09	2.35
Corn, bu.dol.	1.45	1.54	1.71
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.9	10.9	12.8
Cotton, lb.ct.	40.36	41.31	32.98
Potatoes, bu.dol.	.889	.986	1.76
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	17.70	20.00	20.69
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	25.40	27.00	19.10
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	28.90	30.80	21.50
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	27.40	30.00	21.00
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 59.2	1/ 67.6	74.0
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.15	1/2 4.40	4.62
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	22.3	24.3	30.2
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 50.6	1/ 42.2	51.5

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation

2/ Preliminary

ida. New bloom ('51-'52 crop) should be out in Florida last of February and is expected to be better and more uniform than usual.

More Lemons Than Last Year

California lemons are estimated at 12.5 million boxes. Production last season, 11.4 million; average, 13 million.

Egg Production Nearly Same as Year Ago

Egg production last month was 3 percent less than in January last year but topped average by 28 percent. There were 3 percent fewer layers but rate per hen was nearly the same as a year earlier. The 5 billion eggs laid in January compares with 5.2 billion year ago and 3.9 billion 10-year average for the month.

Egg Prices Drop 11 Cents Last Month

Farmers averaged 46.2 cents a dozen for eggs in mid-January compared with 57.7 cents in December. Year ago they got 31.2 cents. Chickens averaged 24.3 cents pound liveweight in January; year ago, 20.3 cents. Live turkeys brought farmers 33.9 cents in January, up slightly from year ago.

Milk Production Second Highest of Record

Milk production in January totaled 9 billion gallons, nearly the same as year earlier. The total for January was second highest of record for the month and 5 percent above average.

Production Rate Lower on Per Capita Basis

Daily production of milk in January amounted to 1.89 pounds per person, compared with 1.94 pounds year earlier and the 10-year January average of 1.99 pounds.

Moderately Larger Total of Beef Expected

Number of cattle on feed Jan. 1 was a record--up 5 percent from last year. More were of light-weight than usual...will be late in the year reaching market. Numbers of well-finished cattle marketed and total production of beef are expected to remain a little larger than last year.

Per Capita Increase Expected of Pork and Beef

Enough pork and beef is expected in '51 to supply military and provide 3 pounds more per person than the 145 pounds in '50. Slaughter of hogs not to increase until about mid-March, marketing time for the fall pig crop.

Winter Vegetables Total Down From Year Ago

Winter vegetable production, now estimated at 1.4 million tons, is down 14 percent from year ago but exceeds 10-year average by about 9 percent. Decline in prospects is due largely to below normal temperatures in Florida and the severe cold wave in Texas.

Fewer Cabbage and Tomatoes, More Lettuce and Peas

Largest tonnage decreases from last year in winter vegetables are cabbage, carrots, celery and tomatoes. Tonnage increases over last year are expected for lettuce, artichokes, green peas and shallots. No forecast yet made for winter spinach, but the bulk of the winter spinach acreage is in Texas, much of which was hard hit by the cold wave. For spring truck, the acreage is off, accounted for largely by the sharp reduction in early spring onion acreage in south Texas.

Big Increase in Poultry Canned

Poultry canned in 1950 was a record, 152 million pounds. Previous high--in '48--147 million pounds. The 14 million pounds canned in December was up 25 percent from year earlier, and 37 percent from the 44-'48 average.

Prices Received Up; Still Below Record High

Prices received by farmers mid-January were up 5 percent from December; but were still below record high reached in January '48. Index at 300 percent of its 1910-14 base compares with 286 in December. Record high, 306...in January '48.

Advances Registered for Most Farm Products

Eggs, oranges, grapefruit, cottonseed and turkeys were the only farm commodities failing to show a price rise last month.

Prices Paid Rose 3 Percent--to New High

A 3 percent rise in prices paid (including interest taxes and farm wages) brought the January index to 272 or 7 points higher than at mid-December. January '50 index was 248.

Farm Employment Upward Seasonally

Farm employment increased seasonally in January by a quarter million workers, with the larger increases in the South and the Northeast. But the total of 7 million at work last of January was down three-tenths of a million from a year ago, all regions showing a decline except the Pacific.

59 Million Civilians at Work; Year Ago, 56.9

Civilians at work in January totaled 59 million. This was up 2.1 million workers from year earlier when 56.9 million civilians were at work. But the new estimate is down 1.3 million from December and 2.3 million from November. No estimates are available which would include the military. Unemployed in January totaled 2.5 million; year ago 4.5 million.

Annual Livestock and Dairy Reports

Released by Bureau of Agricultural Economics on February 15:

"Livestock on Farms, Jan. 1"--details about numbers of all kinds of livestock, by States over a period of years.

"Milk Production on Farms and Statistics of Dairy Plant Products"--gives the figures on milk cows and milk products by States, also per capita consumption of milk and dairy products, 1950 and several years back.

To keep up with all BAE publications ask for the Monthly Check List. Address, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	January 1951
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	300
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	272
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	110
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 282
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 278
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	3/ 450
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 559
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan. 1950	Jan. 1951
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	9.0	9.0
Eggs, (bil.).....	5.2	5.0
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 6998	4/ 7051
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 536	4/ 534
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 9982	4/ 10538
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 18262	4/ 18790
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ December figure.		
3/ January 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ Preceding calendar year under Federal inspection.		